

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



June 26, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/James R. Frees

SUBJECT: Blanket approval to Attend a Pre-launch Reception Co-sponsored by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a pre-launch reception co-sponsored by NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne at the Doubletree Hotel Cocoa Beach, Florida, Friday, June 30, 2006. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-121, at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 150 representatives of government, the aerospace industry and the community. The reception will permit NASA employees to discuss and celebrate with other attendees their collaborative efforts in assuring a safe return to flight of the Space Shuttle. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served at a cost of approximately \$20 per person and a cash bar will be available. The reception is fully funded by contributions from the contractors with MSFC Office of Protocol providing oversight and management of the event.

I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of MSFC employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with national, state, and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's objectives. Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of this social event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, MSFC employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or

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guests. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect ATK Launch Systems, Lockheed Martin Michoud Space Systems, and Pratt-Whitney Rocketdyne are not covered in this determination and should seek a determination pursuant to 5 CFR 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in these events from their local ethics counselor.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Devinti M. Williams at 256-544-0012.


James R. Frees
Acting Chief Counsel